

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXIX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 1909.

No. 4

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HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS

The English Mail of the 25th December 1908 and the parcel Mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 16th December and for despatch overland on the 23rd December arrived for S.S. *Devahna* on the 21st inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Rev. John Macgowan, D.D., of Amoy, has been elected a member of the Royal Society of Arts.

The Chinese Imperial Post Office are about to issue a new stamp, entitled the Commemoration Stamp.

Tenders were recently opened for the construction of the Regent's residence at Seoul. The lowest estimate is Taels, 1,500,000.

The engagement of Miss Dolores Mencarini (Lola), daughter of the Deputy Commissioner of Customs at Amoy, to Mr. Antonio Maati, Mexican Consul at Shanghai, is announced.

The Shanghai Mutual Telephone Company, Ltd., last week opened tenders, twenty-seven in number, for the equipment of the new telephone exchange. The award was given to the British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Limited, which firm, tendering through their agents Messrs Scott, Harding & Co., offered to supply the machinery and superintend the erection of it for the sum of £14,686,18 s. 6 d. sterling.

A few flakes of snow fell at Shanghai on the 13th inst, but they melted as they fell.

The value of exports from Formosa to foreign countries last year amounted to Y9,297,135, and imports to Y17,287,970. Exports to Japan proper totalled Y24,418,614 and imports from Japan Y20,919,399.

Mr. W. Nunn, of the British Customs, has been appointed Adviser to the Customs Department in Siam, in succession to Mr. Ambrose, at a salary of £1,000 a year. He is twenty-nine years of age, and married.

The German cruiser *Furst Bismarck* and the *Tiger* were at Saigon last week. On the 10th inst. the officers were entertained at an official dinner at Government House and on the following day they dined with Admiral Richard Foy.

The following German officials in North China have been decorated by H. M. The Kaiser, in recognition of their services:—Graf von Rex, German Minister at Peking, has been decorated with the star of the Crown Order, second class. Herr Dobrikon, Chancellor of the German legation, has received the Crown Order, third class. Consul H. Cordes, Director of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, Peking, has also been decorated with the Crown Order, third class.

Judge Charles H. Smith of the Court of First Instance, Manila, has been elected a member of the Royal Society of Arts of Westminster. Judge Smith intends to leave Manila on his vacation trip on February 23 and will travel through Asia, crossing British India and visiting Italy, Greece, and other countries of Europe. He will also visit the Holy Land. After staying two weeks in London, he will go to the United States to spend the rest of his vacation.

The ascent of Fuji through the snow by a party from Tokyo, who, started from Gotemba on the 5th instant, proved a failure. The party found the road above the second station hard and frozen, and succeeded in reaching the seventh station, where they were suddenly enveloped in a dense fog. This was followed by a heavy snow storm, whereupon signals were made to descend. So heavy was the snowfall that it was impossible to see, and for awhile the party could neither retreat nor advance. Eventually the snowstorm abated and towards sunset the party managed to descend to Tarobo, arriving at Gotemba about 11 o'clock at night.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller is credited with the intention to devote \$50,000,000 to the cause of Oriental education. This statement was made on December 12th by a member of the University of Chicago faculty. According to reports at the University, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the oil king will spend this immense sum in uplifting the nations of the Far East after hearing the reports of Professor Ernest Burton and Professor Thomas C. Chamberlin, who have been commissioned to investigate the conditions in the Orient. It is said that Mr. Rockefeller will give the University of Chicago power to expend \$50,000,000 in any way Professor Burton and Professor Chamberlin may specify. These gentlemen are now in China.

An action for libel was commenced in the Danish Consular Court at Shanghai on the 12th inst. against Gordius Nielsen, proprietor of the *China Gazette*, (until recently owned by Mr. O'Shea, who was found guilty of libelling Judge Wilfley). The plaintiffs in the present case are the East Asiatic Dredging Co. who claim Tls. 20,000 as damages. An attempt to settle the case out of Court has failed, and, owing to the illness of one of the plaintiffs, the hearing of the case has been postponed until the 27th inst.

The American University Club of Shanghai held its annual meeting in the office of the American Consul-General last week. Following the approval of the minutes, officers were re-elected for the ensuing year as follows:—President, Hon. C. Denby; Secretary W. Lookwood; Treasurer, J. Shengle, who with Dr. W. R. Jefferies and C. C. Baldwin constitute the Executive Committee. Among the matters of business brought forward were the plans for the annual dinner, and it was decided to hold the function on February 12 which is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lincoln. It was decided to invite Bishop Brent, of the International Opium Commission, to make the principal address on the occasion. Plans were suggested by which the club might extend its functions so as best to promote in China the cause of American Universities, particularly with a view to increasing the number of Chinese studying in American institutions. These were referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

The estimate of the Formosan Government for the coming fiscal year (from April 1909 to March 1910), which was under examination by the Home Department, has now been submitted to the Finance Department. The revenue of the island is estimated at Y32,275,449, representing both ordinary and extraordinary revenues, and the expenditure at Y32,234,549, both ordinary and extraordinary. Compared with the estimate for the present fiscal year, the revenue shows a decrease of Y1,595,879 and the expenditure of Y1,636,779. The principal item in the extraordinary expenditure is the cost of lumbering on Ari hill, proposed to be taken over by the Government, upon which it is proposed to spend Y1,800,000. The proposal has awakened strong opposition in many quarters, it being regarded as a sacrifice of public funds to the profit of a private merchant, and it is expected that the question will arouse a great deal of discussion in the Diet. Arisan is a well-wooded hill in Formosa, on which lumbering was undertaken a few years ago by Mr. Fujita, a well-known business-man of Osaka. But the enterprise has proved a failure and it is alleged that Mr. Fujita, seeing that he was involved in a heavy loss, appealed for assistance to the Government or the Premier through Marquis Inouye, who is on intimate terms with Mr. Fujita. The Formosan Government now proposes to take over the business, for which ample compensation will be paid. It is regarded as strange that while Government saw-mills in Japan are being transferred to private concerns, a similar business in Formosa should be taken over by the Government. The matter forms a striking example of the inconsistency of the Government policy in these matters.—*Japan Chronicle*.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

Contrary to general expectation, there is to be a contest for the two vacant seats on the Sanitary Board. Four gentlemen were nominated on Saturday, and the election, which takes place on Wednesday next, should be the most interesting that has ever occurred in Hongkong, for, by the amendment of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinances, the franchise has been considerably widened, and interest in the choice of representatives of the community is correspondingly heightened. Instead of the mere handful of persons who have hitherto been entitled to vote at these elections, there is now an electorate of between 2,000 and 3,000 persons to whom the candidates appeal. This is as it should be. Every member of the community is interested in the Sanitary administration of the Colony and it is only right that those who represent the community on the Board should be elected on the widest possible basis. We direct public attention to the letter from Mr. SHELTON HOOPER, which is published in another column, pointing out the extent of this extension of the franchise. Parenthetically we may express the opinion that the information which is set forth in this letter from Mr. HOOPER is information which ought to have been officially published in the same ample manner by the Government, in the interests of the candidates who are canvassing for support, as well as in the interests of those entitled to vote, for we doubt if, for instance, the civil servants or military and naval officers on full pay in the Colony are aware that they may vote at this election. In view of the great extension of the franchise the two hours fixed for the voting would be very inadequate if even a fourth of the persons entitled to vote turned up at the City Hall on Wednesday evening to record their votes. Perhaps, no rush of electors is to be anticipated, though with four candidates in the field, we may confidently expect the muster of voters to be greater than at any previous election.

The names of the candidates with those of their proposers and seconders are set forth in another column. We think it will generally be admitted, that Mr. SHELTON HOOPER's claims upon the electorate are such as should ensure his re-election at the head of the poll. During the three years he has served the community it has been abundantly clear to all readers of the Board's proceedings that he possesses a grasp of the details of administration such as we think it can confidently be said no other man in the colony has acquired outside the ranks of the officials actually engaged in the work. His long residence in the Colony, his familiarity with the history of sanitary legislation and his special knowledge of the duties of the Sanitary Department, especially as they affect the general body of householders, combine to give him a pre-eminent title to a seat on the Board. The community owes to Mr. HOOPER, and all other members of the Sanitary Commission, a large debt of gratitude for the valuable service they rendered in that prolonged inquiry which resulted in the removal of grievances under which owners and occupiers of Chinese property alike had long been groaning. It was this feeling of irritation—exasperation would perhaps be the better word—which prompted Mr. HOOPER and Mr. HUMPHREYS to come forward as candidates for election to the Board three years ago and the valuable

services rendered by Mr. HOOPER on the Sanitary Commission are scarcely likely to be forgotten by a grateful public on the polling day. The three remaining candidates are untried men. They have no record of public service in the Colony which can be called to support their claims for the suffrages of the electors. They must therefore be judged largely by their professional training and local knowledge. Two are medical practitioners whose training in hygiene and sanitation specially qualify them for seats on a Sanitary Board. Dr. BELLIOS has been long enough in the Colony to be known to most of the electors. Dr. FITZWILLIAMS has but recently settled here, but he has strong supporters in the Hon. Mr. POLLOCK and the Hon. Mr. SLADE, who signed his nomination paper. The fourth candidate, Mr. PERCY SMITH, is well known as an auditor and accountant, and doubtless relies more upon his local knowledge than upon his professional training. But the claims of an auditor to represent the community on the Sanitary Board cannot be ignored. In this connection we need only refer to the Report of the Sanitary Commission, which states in paragraph 257: "Nearly half a million dollars per annum are expended by the Sanitary Board, yet no proper books are kept in the Department of this vast expenditure. There is neither a journal, nor ledger, and the so-called cash book is merely an apology for the name, and for all practical purposes is merely a replica of the Bank pass book. The smallest firm in Hongkong could not conduct its business satisfactorily with such books, and it is probable that many individuals keep much better records of their private affairs." What improvements in this connection have been made since the publication of the Report we do not know, but it is very evident that apart from Mr. PERCY SMITH's local knowledge, on which, we presume, he chiefly relies, his professional training as an accountant and auditor should count for something in the election. Now that the candidates are officially before the electors, with whom the choice rests, we hope the healthy sign of public interest in the Sanitary administration which the nomination of four candidates for the two vacant seats betokens, will be generally manifested on Wednesday next by a rush to the poll.

(Daily Press, January 21st.)

Never in the history of the Colony has so much public interest been manifested in an election of members to the Sanitary Board as was shown yesterday. The oft repeated taunt that there is no public interest in local affairs in Hongkong is abundantly disproved by the fact that nearly seven hundred persons took the trouble to go to the poll. Of course, this unprecedented manifestation of public interest in the election is due largely to the extension of the franchise since the passing of the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance six months ago. This statement, however, carries the obvious inference that the expression of public opinion has been choked in the past by a very restricted franchise. We congratulate Mr. SHELTON HOOPER on his triumphant return at the head of the poll which he is fully justified in regarding as an unmistakable indication of public approval of the policy he has pursued on the Board since 1906 and we may add that it expresses at the same time recognition of the valuable services rendered by him as a member of the Sanitary Commission. The vacancy created by the regretted retirement of Mr.

HENRY HUMPHREYS has been filled by the election of Dr. GERARD FITZWILLIAMS who, we feel sure, will prove a most useful member of the Board. Between the two doctors the margin was small, and we take it as a good augury of continued public interest in the affairs of the Board that both Dr. BELLIOS and Mr. PERCY SMITH are resolved to try again when the opportunity offers.

In connexion with this election we may appropriately offer a few comments on the short valedictory speeches delivered by Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS and Mr. SHELTON HOOPER at the last meeting of the Sanitary Board. The transfer from the Sanitary Board to the Building Authority of all matters connected with buildings has certainly deprived the Board of a great deal of responsibility and has reduced the volume of its business. Mr. HUMPHREYS says it has "whittled the business of the Board down to practically nothing," and he speaks with the authority of experience. The last few meetings he had attended he described as "a farce", and for this reason, if for no other, he took his leave of the Board without a single regret. We think these remarks will afford the taxpayers some food for thought. The Sanitary Board is one of the largest spending departments of the Government. In the course of his remarks, referring to the revelations of the Commission, Mr. HUMPHREYS said: "The spectacle of \$10,000 squandered every month during the plague season on an unknown and untried disinfectant, of thousands of dollars paid out every month to unknown Chinese contractors, without business premises and without even a printed form for their bills, will, I trust, never again be presented to the community. The Sanitary Board, as a Board, could not be asked to share the blame in any way, because prior to this state of affairs the Government had transferred practically the whole of the executive arrangements to a Sanitary Department composed entirely of Government Officials." We think the ratepayers would like to know whether the reorganised Sanitary Board affords them any better security against such a waste of public money. Do the members of the Sanitary Board ever see the bills presented for payment? Are they kept regularly informed of the operations of the Department and of what expenditure is being incurred? We take it that one of the chief uses of the representatives of the taxpaying community on the Board is to carefully watch the expenditure, but we do not gather from reports of the Sanitary Board proceedings that the monthly accounts are ever brought to their notice. It seems to us that the practice of the local boards at home might well be followed here. The bills should go before a Finance Committee, and the Board should be furnished monthly with a list of the accounts recommended for payment—a list which should not only give the name of the person or firm to whom the money is payable, and the sum due, but should also show what the account is for—whether for disinfectants, scavenging, or any other purpose. Were such a system adopted by the Sanitary Board it would afford members the desired means of keeping an eye on the expenditure of the Department and at the same time these lists of accounts would serve to keep them better informed of what is going on than they apparently are now. It seems to us that there is plenty of scope still left for the zeal of the unofficial members of the Board and we commend the suggestion we have made to their consideration. A Board meeting need not necessarily be the farce that Mr. HUMPHREYS says it is,

but, without the knowledge that such a system as we have advocated would impart to members, the value to the community of representation on the Sanitary Board does appear to be exceedingly small. It rests largely with the unofficial members themselves to increase the value of that representation, and in this, we are sure, they will have the cordial sympathy and support of His Excellency the Governor. Mr. SHELTON HOOPER's eulogy of the activity and interest shown by Sir FREDERICK LUGARD in all that has followed upon the presentation of the Report of the Commission will, we are sure, be endorsed by everyone, and most cordially by those best acquainted with the vast amount of work entailed in so thorough an investigation as the Governor's speeches in Council showed that he had made into the whole position revealed in the Commissioners' Report. It was an exceedingly heavy task to fall upon a Governor who had just arrived and had yet to make himself acquainted with the whole administrative organisation of the Colony. Appropriate reference was made by Mr. HOOPER to the steps taken by His Excellency to put an end to the friction which had long existed between officials and unofficials on the Board and we hope the good feeling which is now evidenced on the Board may long endure and that the usefulness of the unofficial members on it will be increasingly demonstrated.

AMERICAN POLITICS.

(Daily Press, January 19th.)

American politics are under the gaze of the world at present to a greater extent than they have been for some time. It is not merely that the various nations are watching the success of the Panama Canal undertaking, world important as it is. That would perhaps account to some degree for the interest manifested in the country's affairs, but the prominence which its politics enjoy, or rather obtain, is due more to the strenuous and obtrusive personality of leaders than to political experiments which excite the interest of onlookers. It is very commonly asserted that greater corruption and more malpractices are to be found in American municipal and political life than in any of the other great civilised countries, of the world, but while hesitating to accept a theory so generally held outside of the United States, we may perhaps be pardoned if we express the belief that no country has freer institutions or higher civic and national ideals than America; and that though personal spleen and party bitterness may occasionally lead to exposures, it is the desire to achieve these ideals which leads to the ventilation of so many scandals. The path to political purity is not strewn with roses nor scented with fragrance. No, it leads through sinks of iniquity, through treacherous bogs of deceit and duplicity, over rough and rocky roads bestrewn with obstacles to a sweet resting place where few have hitherto sojourned. Still its joys are not unknown and it is the prospect of realising these that buoy men up with hope in their struggle to reach the goal which so many nations have in view. America is not lagging on the way to political purity. The consciousness of its people has been quickened, and, though shameful exposures are occasionally made, we must not let our eyes rest on the evils made public, but rather let us gaze at the forces operating for good which brought them to light. Other countries have their scandals, but the Press does not throw such a fierce light upon them, nor is public opinion so focused as in America, and careless thinkers

have rushed to the conclusion, wholly unwarranted, that the state of the Republic is much worse than that of the older Kingdoms.

These remarks are occasioned by the perusal of newspaper comments on recent happenings in the United States. Disquieting statements regarding the Panama Canal have been made. Charges of corruption, and inefficiency have been levelled at officials and gloomy prognostications of failure have not been lacking. Naturally these charges warranted investigation; and, though inquiries have been made, the matter does not seem any nearer settlement. "Fake sensations," as they are described, are still being made regarding the Canal, but all the irregularities and crimes that may be disclosed need not shake our faith in the American Republic and its capacity to accomplish great undertakings.

Perhaps the most regrettable feature of the wordy warfare being waged in high political circles in the United States is that President ROOSEVELT has allowed himself to be drawn into the vortex and to be whirled into all the contemptible squabbles which have acquired undue prominence. It is indeed a pity that a man who has deserved so well of his country, who for a longer period than many of his predecessors has enjoyed the confidence of the people, should allow the closing days of a brilliant tenure of office to be darkened with controversies which besmirch the reputation of the once popular THEODORE ROOSEVELT and belittle the dignity of the Presidency. Into the merits of the various quarrels it is not for us to enter. It is enough to know that his treatment of Congress is not such as its status demanded. He may have been sincere in his convictions that all was not well in that legislative assembly, but it was not for the President to insult the honourable body. One American journal which seems to disregard the trivialities of political life, expresses the opinion that whatever Mr. ROOSEVELT may or may not have done in other respects, "he has certainly robbed the presidency of something of that dignified and almost reverent character which came to it by inheritance from the days of the fathers, and which prior to eight years ago had been fairly sustained. If our ideas of the presidency and of the dignities and manners which ought to hedge it in have somewhat declined, the source of that decline will easily be identified by those who make permanent history in the character and doing of Mr. ROOSEVELT. Those, who by taste or temperament like the slip-dash manner in the White House will commend Mr. ROOSEVELT; those who believe that the virtues and the value of the presidential office would best be sustained by a more reserved and dignified bearing will feel that something has been lost through Mr. ROOSEVELT, and will hope for the day of its restoration." Though the recent presidential campaign has witnessed a distinct decline of old time ideas of propriety on the part of candidates, due perhaps to the strenuousness attributable to both Mr. ROOSEVELT and Mr. BRYAN it has also to be noted that there has been a distinct moral gain in the attitude of the candidates towards each other. The spectacle of both Mr. TART and Mr. BRYAN present at the same board and each contributing to the gaiety of a civil feast was distinctly pleasant, and a cheerful prospect is unfolded when candidates so respect each other and each respect himself that friendly meetings and greetings even in the height of the campaign are possible. Therefore, unsavoury as the present squabbles may be, there is always the

comforting assurance that progress towards higher ideals in political life in the United States is being maintained.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM.

(Daily Press, January 20th.)

That any such alteration in the constitution of the House of Lords as would be implied by the acceptance of the programme of "Reform" sketched out by Lord ROSEBURY's Committee would render the Upper House the real governing body of the country, is felt on all hands and by none more than the Radical party who have brought the House into such a position that some fundamental change has become a matter of necessity. It yet is plain that, as with the army the necessity of superseding the present system of enlistment by some method of compulsory military training, is rapidly being instilled into the mind of the nation at large; so is growing the national conviction that the enlargement of the constituencies to the extent that all private thought on the part of the voters has been extinguished, has reduced the status of the House of Commons to that of a mere machine for enregistering the views of a few wire-pullers; and in consequence all confidence in the ability of the Lower Chamber to manage the complicated affairs of a great nation has been dissipated. Conscious of its inability to tackle questions of high policy, the House has practically ceased to discuss the foreign relations of the State, which are as implicitly placed in the hands of the Foreign Office as in any of the more especially monarchical governments of the Continent; while the affairs of the Army and Navy are rapidly falling into the hands of the Ministers of the day. In little better condition are the financial affairs of the nation, which have ceased to be discussed on grounds, and are only regarded from the narrowest of merely party platforms, or as a means of stirring up socialistic dissensions, and setting class against class. In such a disorganised condition nature in the long run is sure to provide a remedy; but the remedy is pretty sure to bear as hardly as the disease. Whenever disorder has gone so far as to gain the upper hand, affairs are bound to return to the law of the stronger; it may be the stronger physically or the more able mentally, but the law itself cannot be evaded, and is bound to return on those who have provoked it. The extreme Radicals were thus quite right when they cried out in their distress that Lord LANSDOWNE, and a few others had the other day taken in hand the salvation of the country; but they forgot that it was they alone who had forced the necessity of action on them. Had, in the particular case in question, the House of Commons been made to feel that in passing the foolish act in question they were really flying in the face of their own constituents, there would have been no occasion nor opportunity for the meeting called by Lord LANSDOWNE. The simple fact was that, wise in their own conceit, certain incompetent ministers sought to take advantage of a flying start to impose by force on the nation at large certain crack-brained fads of the rown imagination. The sequel to the affair was its most instructive part. So far from a deeply injured people re-entring the decision of Lord LANSDOWNE's meeting, there was a general sigh of relief that at the last moment someone had been found to save them from the consequence of their own folly.

So much for the present aspect of the Un-representative House, which, it is not too much to say, is rapidly becoming a laughing stock, and whose most cherished attempt at legislating for a nation of grandmothers are rapidly finding their natural resting place in the waste paper basket of the House. If we look to the presumed "Upper Chamber" the outlook is not altogether without anxiety. Both parties, and in this neither has much to boast of over the other, have been with their eyes open vying with one another in lowering the quality of the House of Lords. After diluting it with all sorts of unmentionable slush it is hardly reassuring to see them seeking to hold up the House to ridicule. "See what a feeble old House this is of yours," would be a very good part cry, doubtless were it not for the incriminating reply: "The House is as you made it," and the criminal is not permitted to plead in his defence his own mistakes. It is notorious that it is this new element in the House of Lords that has lowered the standard of the whole. Men who had failed in everything else, who had been promoted by the ministers of the day, and found utterly wanting were in the kindness of heart of the Premier of the day sent up to drone away a useless existence on the benches of the House of Lords. It takes, says the old proverb, three generations to make a gentleman, but in a lower sphere it takes as many to reduce a nincompoop to utter imbecility; and the succeeding generations of men promoted for incapacity were not likely to rise in the scale simply by having the title Lord appended to their surname. These are the folk who have brought the House of Lords into contempt. With few exceptions the representatives of the older nobility understand their duties towards the House, and, what is as important, towards the people and the nation. But the very weight of numbers alone has had its effect in the House of Lords, as it has notoriously in that of the Commons. No subject can be adequately discussed in a crowd sufficiently numerous to stink the individuality of its members. The same rule that at the hustings leads men when overnumbered to vote in flocks as sheep rushing to destruction, simply because one of their number has been seized with panic, also renders incapable of judgment the member wedged in by a thoughtless crowd. Voting by shoals has indeed been the main cause of the very notable falling off in the intelligence of both Houses, and, if not checked in time, promises at no distant date to sap the foundation of the Empire. Now it is the consciousness of this that has impelled the Committee of the Lords to present the very elaborate scheme they propose to the House. Unfortunately, even if acceptable in other respects, the scheme possesses the same crowning defect. Still as a first and tentative device for improving the quality of the too diluted house it has its good points. A representative house selected by itself from a body, where the majority belong to one school of thought, is certain, unless some very elaborate method of selection be brought into play, to represent on the majority, and nothing weakens a legislative body so much as the sense that it has no opposition to deal with. That original and co-opted members of a deliberative assembly should belong to different classes would also bring any assembly so constituted to instant destruction, yet both these defects exist to an overpowering extent in the proposal. As it stands, it would, in fact, be utterly unworkable, and would enhance in stead of amending the weaknesses it was designed to remove. Still, if the country is to be taken

out of chaos and restored to the blessings of material light, something must be done, and that apparently quickly. Men like an ASQUITH, a CHURCHILL, a LLOYD GEORGE, and a GREY, whose only bond of union is discontent cannot be found to make that a basis for re-erecting the fabric of Government already rudely shattered. Some one must be found in time of peril to take command of the ship, already drifting on the rocks of socialism and revolution.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

I see the newspapers are warning householders to take additional precautions at the present time and not put temptation in the way of their Chinese servants. As we know the Chinese will do almost anything to procure the wherewithal which will give them a good time at the New Year and the newspaper warnings should not pass unheeded. Many a European has to mourn the loss of valuables which disappeared just prior to these holidays and an experience of that sort does not add to the enjoyment of the holidays.

Local firms who present Chinese calendars to their patrons must feel embarrassed by the extraordinary number and nature of the applications for their pictorial favours. Calendars have achieved a wonderful popularity among the Chinese and it is difficult at the present time for the European to dodge the requests of boys, coolies and shroffs who make their applications direct or ask you to "takee taipan one piecee calendar my." Next to possessing money their one aim these days seems to be to get a calendar.

I am reminded of this by the following quaintly expressed epistle which was handed me "Dear Mrs. P. W. Smith—I beg you will kindly give me too Chinese and two English calendars. Please deliver to bearer to bring back and I shall be very much thanked and obliged with your kindness yours with great esteem and condescension."

Turf topics are beginning to be discussed now and the attendance at the Valley is growing these mornings notwithstanding that the morning air bites keenly. Even the ladies are being enthused, to use a word which is not quite in common usage yet, and the forthcoming race meeting ought to be as popular as its predecessors.

The entries for the Races closed on Saturday and though I have not yet heard how they compare with last year's, it may be safely assumed that they are more numerous. There should be some capital sport this year. The Shanghai jockeys are beginning to put in an appearance on the training course. Mr. Vida is down. He rides this year for Messrs. Findlay and Moir. Mr. Burkill will be Mr. Mody's jockey, and Mr. Hayes will ride Mr. Toeg's ponies. It is very likely that other Shanghai riders will be coming down. Hongkong in the matter of jockeys is not quite so well off this season as usual. Mr. G. C. C. Master is a great loss. Mr. R. F. C. Master, too, is away. But we still have experienced riders like Mr. Gresson, Mr. Dupree, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Gegg and others.

There is a probability that the Kowloon Dock Amateurs may give another production of "The Silver King." Having taken so much trouble to give a very intelligent and very acceptable rendering of the famous drama they would be well advised, I think, to meet the popular demand for at least another performance. All their critics are agreed that their work was excellent, but, of course, some have their own way of expressing it.

His Excellency the Governor has had a busy time presenting prizes and discoursing to the scholars of the various schools and colleges in the colony. This year I noticed that His Excellency has been endeavouring to encourage the boys to take a greater interest in sport, and it set me wondering if he was aware of the great distinction between European and Chinese boys. European boys generally have to be kept

to some extent to their studies and need little inducement to take up sport, but Chinese boys are different. They require comparatively little inducement to apply themselves to their studies, but it takes a lot to get them to take up sport as we understand it.

At this time of the year when suggestions for improvements in the educational curricula of the schools of the Colony are timely, let me draw attention to the commercial value of looking pleasant. I see this art is now being demonstrated in the American public schools. Most people, I think, are struck by the immobile expression of the Chinese salesman which gives the impression that he doesn't care a button whether you make a purchase or not. Now, in the course for saleswomen in the American public schools, pupils are taught, among other things, the art of smiling when the customer approaches. A New York paper suggests that the art of looking pleasant is worthy of an endowed university-extension lectureship. Perhaps the Faculty of the Hongkong University (when it comes into existence) will bear the suggestion in mind.

In Hongkong even the civilian has to smell powder. He is under fire day and night for two or three days. True, it is only the discharge of crackers and bombs and other fireworks but they are almost as nerve shattering as the real thing, and the fumes of sulphur assail the nostrils just as strongly as they would in times of more serious operations. If it would not be considered ironical the best I can wish my readers is a quiet time during the New Year.

Merry Widow hats are not popular in Hongkong. We see very few of them, and I have been told that the Peak cars are responsible for this. This reflection is suggested by the receipt of the following clipping from a correspondent who says he has witnessed a somewhat similar incident on the Peak car:—

An amusing incident occurred a day or two ago at Frankfort. A lady boarded an electric tram-car the platform of which was filled with smokers, but the inside was practically empty. The smokers made way for the lady to pass within, but she simply looked at the entry, and then cast an appealing glance at one of the smokers to give her his standing place. He was somewhat embarrassed, thinking perhaps that the lady was a smoker. Then he said, "I have often given up my seat to oblige a lady, but it is most unusual for a lady to wish to stand." "Oh," she said, "I am not able to get inside through that opening on account of my hat." There was a laugh, and there was nothing for the smoker but to cast away his cigar and take a seat on the bench inside. This he did, and the lady with the hat triumphed.

I noticed in one New Zealand paper the other day that a bookseller, on being prosecuted for selling obscene books, protested that the spicy little stories he retailed were not half as lurid as some of Shakespeare's works which were never censured by their straight laced Government. Surely it's rather late in the day to haul up the Bard of Avon before the bench on a charge of pernicious literature, but perhaps the Stygian hosts have already attended to the matter and it's just as well the press have not been informed for I'm afraid Victoria Cross, Hubert Wales and these latter day doctrinists would feel like wishing to become immortalized and escape their sentence.

Truly Mrs. Besant gives us some dreadful shocks at times. I was horrified to read not long ago that after death we remain for a period in that peculiar coma where our greatest and most cherished terrestrial joy is in sight, yet unattainable. Imagine the mental agony of the poor mortal whose earthly heaven was the before tiffin appetising gin and bitters, to see gallons of the delicious draught arrayed before his eyes yet beyond his reach. Assuredly the punishment of Tantalus could not be more horrible.

Like the curate in "The Private Secretary" we in Hongkong may well say "if we are discovered, we are lost." Miss Dulcie Deamer, the young New Zealand writer whom the Australian "Lone Hand" brought into publicity, evidently

has no use for the Europeans in the East. Writing of Colombo she remarks:—

"The Europeans here (Colombo) are the one really serious inconvenience. Luckily they are but a handful—one sees two whites to two-score natives. They are supercilious, classy, and English—vilely English. Everyone talks the highest "high English" and the effect is ridiculous. I do not like the English here. I shall be very much surprised if they like me. They live in the silver table and show-room style, most of them are up to their eyes in debt and as regards their morals, it is as often as not a case of "For Simla Reasons."

A Ceylon paper adds "Is this caustic criticism of Colomboites the outcome of Colombo's caustic criticism of certain amateur theatricals—very amateur—in the garden of the G. O. H. with which Miss Dulcie Deamer was connected?" However, I shudder to think what would have happened if the modest Dulcie had discovered Hongkong. We should be undone.

It is not my point of view, but a man, whom I suspect of being a humorist, asks what we shall do with our dusty streets if spitting be prohibited.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

No cases of plague and only one of cholera were reported last week.

The usual ante-New Year petty thefts and snatchings are fairly numerous.

A brilliant assembly met in the City Hall on Tuesday night on the occasion of the bal masque given by naval officers.

A humorous situation was witnessed at the Magistracy on Jan. 19 when Mr. Kemp had his golf caddie before him on a charge of theft.

The latest bulletins issued by Dr. Jordan state that the condition of Her Excellency Lady Lugard continues to improve.

Mr. A. Denison, and Mr. C. B. Buyer (Superintendent of the Peak tram line) left for Manila on Saturday to survey a tram route to Beguet.

At the Magistracy on Jan. 20 a Chinese was fined \$84 for being in illegal possession of a quantity of opium and was mulcted in a further sum of \$10 for being in possession of three fighting weapons.

A military funeral took place at the Happy Valley on Jan. 18 when the remains of Sapper Shave, of the Royal Engineers, were interred with military honours. The Buff Band was in attendance. Sapper Shave was one of the best players in the R. E. football team.

A burglary was reported to the police on the 20th inst. Thieves had gained entrance to the top floor of 46 Connaught Road West occupied by a trader by pushing open a sliding door on the roof. They made off with a leather box which contained clothing to the value of \$50 and money to the extent of \$1,500.

Harmston's Circus opened a season at Causeway Bay on Jan. 18, the commodious tent being well filled with an appreciative audience. After Monday's display there is no doubt that this performance has lost none of the prestige which former visits to Hongkong have gained for it. Many of the turns were exceedingly clever and earned unstinted approbation from the large attendance, while the clowns Pimple and Alberto furnished abundance of mirth.

Mr. William Cameron Forbes, Vice-Governor of the Philippine Islands and Mr. Jose R. de Luzuriaga, the commissioner, called on His Excellency the Governor on Friday, who invited them to lunch. This invitation, however, they were unable to accept being pledged to a luncheon party at the Hongkong Club arranged in their honour by Mr. Bolles, but they returned to Government House later in the afternoon and were entertained at tea by the Governor.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutchison presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, M.G., Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. McFarlane, (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

CATTLE DISEASES AT POKFULUM.

A letter was received from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon as follows:—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that rinderpest is now at an end in shed No. 10, Dairy Farm Company's premises, at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum Road, and that foot and mouth disease is also at an end in Sheds Nos. 11 and 12, which belong to the same company. These sheds have been cleansed and disinfected, and I beg therefore to recommend that they be no longer regarded as an infected area. There were no deaths from foot and mouth disease, and of the 19 animals in No. 10 shed affected with rinderpest, two died.

Dr. Gibson wrote a second letter as follows:—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that rinderpest has appeared in No. 7 shed of the Dairy Farm Company's premises at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulum Road. There are fourteen cows, one bull and one calf in this shed. I beg therefore to recommend that the shed be declared an infected area under the Importation and Inspection of Animals Byelaws, Ordinance 1 of 1903-1908.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. HOOPER, sheds Nos. 10, 11 and 12 were declared free from infection, and shed No. 7 was declared infected.

GOVERNMENT ANALYST'S EXAMINATION.

The Government Analyst reported having examined two samples of brandy, ten of milk, three of port wine and six of whisky, all of which were found to be unadulterated.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 2nd January showed that the death rate of the Colony, based on a rate per 1,000 per annum of the total population was 19.4 as against 19.9 for the corresponding week of last year.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 29th December showed that 1,728 houses were limewashed in the Eastern District, and 680 in the Central District.

A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER.

The President was about to refer to the conclusion of the term of Messrs. Hooper and Humphreys on the Board, when Mr. Hooper asked that a confidential matter on the agenda on members should be taken first.

The PRESIDENT moved that strangers be requested to withdraw.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT SECONDED.

Mr. HOOPER Before you put the motion I would direct your attention to the fact that under the standing orders all meetings of the Board, whether in committee or not, should be public unless motion is made to exclude strangers, and carried by a majority of the members present. As this is a matter which I think should be made public, I would simply suggest to the members that the motion be not carried. It is a matter affecting the conduct of an officer: I will not mention his name, therefore it is not discussing it. As a result of the inquiry of the Commission I am firmly of opinion that if this is made public there will be fewer complaints in the future, and I hope it will be considered publicly.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—So far as I am concerned, I am not aware that the papers have been through my hands; therefore I am not in a position to express an opinion one way or the other.

The PRESIDENT—No, they have not been in your hands.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Have not they been in mine?

The PRESIDENT—The papers came from your office.

COLONEL BEDFORD—I have read through the papers, and, as far as I have seen, I cannot agree with Mr. Shelton Hooper. I see no advantage at all in the matter being made public. I fail to

see in what way it would benefit the community.

Mr. HOOPER—My mouth is rather closed in explaining, but I will propose an amendment that the matter stand over till next meeting in order to let members who have not seen the papers see them.

Mr. LAU-CHU-PAK seconded the amendment, which was agreed to.

VALEDICTORY.

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen. This is the last meeting of two of our members—Mr. Shelton Hooper and Mr. Humphreys. I am very glad to see that Mr. Hooper is going to stand again, and I am sure it will be a pleasure to all of us to see him present at the next meeting and able to carry on the good work which he has done in the past. I regret that Mr. Humphreys finds himself unable to stand again for election. At this time, when the new Ordinance is in its initial stages, his experience would be of vast use to us, and I hope that at some future date he will again be able to take his seat at the Board.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Sir, I am very gratified, and I thank you for your remarks. The three years that I and my Colleague, Mr. Hooper, have represented the tax payers on this Board have involved probably the hardest work that any such representatives have ever been called upon to perform, owing principally to His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan appointing all the Unofficials of this Board a commission to inquire into the working of the Health Ordinance. The amount of work which that Commission did and the corruption it exposed, is, I think, well known. The spectacle of \$10,000 squandered every month during the plague season on an unknown and untried disinfectant, of thousands of dollars paid out every month to unknown Chinese contractors, without business premises and with, out even a printed form for their bills, will, I trust, never again be presented to the Community. The Sanitary Board as a Board could not be asked to share the blame in any way because prior to this state of affairs the Government had transferred practically the whole of the executive arrangements to a Sanitary Department composed entirely of Government Officials. There is very little work under the Sanitary law to be done now. Under the new Ordinance all matters connected with buildings have been transferred from the Board to the Building Authority. I do not say it is not a move in the right direction, but, good or bad, it whittles down the business of the Board to practically nothing. Certainly the last few meetings I have attended have been a farce. For this reason, if for no other, I take my leave of the Board without a single regret. At the same time I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy of yourself and your predecessor. It is not always that unofficial members of the Board had every courtesy that they wanted.

Mr. HOOPER—Sir, I thank you very much for your personal allusion to myself and to the work which I have done during the last three years. I join with my colleague, Mr. Humphreys, in thanking you and your predecessor for the courtesy you have extended to the unofficial members while they have been under your presidency at this Board. I think I should be wanting were I not to refer to the action of his Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard in matters of sanitation and all connected therewith. He arrived at an important time, just as the commission had given their report. He therefore came fresh to it, but he studied it from beginning to end and listened to the arguments which were adduced in connection with the legislation that has since been enacted, and the legislation which was proposed. His Excellency has always given an attentive ear to any communication which any member of this Board (I can speak from personal experience, has ever addressed to him. I think he appreciated the situation when shortly after his arrival it was apparent that there was not that good feeling between officials and unofficials which should exist. I, for one, saw no reason why any friction should exist, and suggested to His Excellency a certain course to which he at once gave effect: that was with a view to breaking down the apparent phalanx against unofficial members. He adopted my suggestion that instead of officials being seated at the top of the table and unofficials at the bottom, he should mix us all up. He likewise gave

directions for the Colonial Secretary to issue an order that official members of this Board were free to vote on all questions according to their conscience, as if they were unofficials, and I think that went a long way to smooth over matters and create a better feeling. The result of that is, I think, that our time is not wasted as it was before by long meetings and constant controversies between officials and unofficials. I am sure that all members appreciated his action. I may say that when I joined the Board three years ago, I joined it with the intention of approaching every subject that came before me with an unbiased mind. I had no axe to grind, though some people were unkind enough to say I had. That is all very well as a matter of prophecy: that was three years ago when I stated that I had not, and I will ask you to look back on facts. There have been 105 Board meetings since we were elected, at 90 of which I have been present, and I will challenge any member of this Board, including the secretary with all his past records, to show that I ever gave a vote on anything I was personally interested in, or that could in any way be classed as grinding my own axe, for I disclaim it altogether, and highly disapprove of it. That has been my policy in the past and perhaps it would be more correct if I stated it outside—if elected, it will be my policy in the future (applause).

SERIOUS STABBING AFFRAY.

A serious stabbing affray occurred at the junction of Lyndhurst Terrace and Gutzlaff Street on Saturday night. As a Chinese "boy," said to be employed at No. 35, was walking along in this vicinity a knife was plunged into his abdomen. The assailant must have made a very hurried departure, and must have been very smart about his task for the "boy" told the police later that he did not see who attacked him. The wounded man was immediately removed to hospital, and it is not expected that he will recover. It appears, from a story the "boy" told the police, that his life had been threatened by an amah with whom he formerly kept company. When he parted with this woman and took unto himself a wife she warned him of what would come to pass, and the "boy" now suspects that he has been assailed by his quondam lover or someone in her employ.

THE S.S. "FATSHAN" AFFAIR.

Our Canton correspondent, writing on the 16th inst. says:—Negotiations for the settlement of the *Fatshan* incident have fallen through. Li Kai Hi, one of the men recently deported by the Hongkong Government and later pardoned, has advised the relatives of the deceased to hold on, with a view to obtaining a larger sum of money.

The merchants here, however, are favourable to speedy arrangement with Messrs. Butterfield and Swire whom they recognise as having been very reasonable in this matter. But with the return of Li Kai Hi from Hongkong on the 13th instant, just as the matter was about to be settled, everything has fallen through owing to this man's mischievous interference.

Li Kai Hi is the leader of a section of the Self-Government Society who evidently will stick at nothing to prolong the agitation. It was he who originally took up the matter on behalf of the relatives of the deceased. One really is at a loss to understand why the officials and the merchants are unable to put down a man of Li's calibre.

The local newspapers have of late behaved very well and have not published any inflammatory letters or circulars. This morning one or two papers published letters evidently intended to revive popular interest in the *Fatshan* case. These letters, I have no doubt, were addressed to the Self-Government Society by witnesses for the prosecution at somebody's instigation.

However, as the merchants are favourable towards an early amicable settlement with Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, I doubt whether Li and his clique will meet with much success in the attempt to revive the agitation.

THE SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

A HEAVY POLL—THE RESULT.

Wednesday's election, although a mere trifle to those held at home and in self-governing colonies, showed that the electors were keenly interested in the men who were to represent them on the Sanitary Board. A large cosmopolitan attendance was present when the poll opened at 4 p.m., Oriental and Occidental being anxious to obtain ballot papers. The voters included not only business men, but Naval and Military Officers, Civil Servants of all degrees, from the taitan to the constable, the latter attending in uniform and in numbers to vote for their choice of guardians of the public health.

Mr. C. D. Melbourne, who acted as returning officer, read the notice in the *Government Gazette* concerning the election, and then announced the candidates. He informed electors that the names of Mr. Shelton Hooper and Dr. Fitzwilliams had been spelt incorrectly, but stated that that would not affect the ballot.

When the ballot opened there were between 40 and 50 voters present, and Capt. Hutchinson was the first to record a vote. Assisting Mr. Melbourne in his duties were Messrs. Arthur Chapman, R. H. Crofton, J. R. Wood, G. A. Woodcock, A. Hill, A. B. Sufflad, J. Leonard and W. J. Unwin.

The poll closed at six o'clock and shortly before seven the returning officer announced the result of the poll as follows:

MR. HE TON HOOPER	504
DR. FITZWILLIAM	343
DR. BELLIOS	313
MR. H. PERCY SMITH	167

The first two candidates are therefore elected. The exact number of votes recorded was not made up last night, but eight out of the total number were hrown out.

When the result of the poll was announced, Mr. SHELTON HOOPER said he begged to thank the whole of the electors of Hongkong who had placed him in the proud position at the head of the poll. He felt it a very great honour because they had not done so on any prophesy he had made as to the work he would undertake. He took it as a vote of confidence on the work he had done (Hear, hear and applause). He had openly stated his policy through the public press, and his object had been free criticism of the Government and its policy in any legislation which had been proposed. He had carried out his duties in the past without fear, favour or affection (Applause). He repeated publicly that night that he had "no axe to grind," and that he was actuated in what he had done for the general weal of the Colony and for the benefit of the whole community regardless of any class or religion, and he should continue to be so in future (Applause). Before concluding his remarks, and he was sure he spoke on behalf of the other candidates, he wished, to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the presiding officer for the way he had carried out his duties.

Dr. BELLIOS seconded this vote, and in doing so thanked the winning candidates for the fair way in which they had carried on this election. He was quite sure he spoke on behalf of Mr. Percy Smith, as well as on his own account, when he said the fight had taken place without any ill feeling whatever (Applause). He bore the candidates no animosity whatever, and was very, very glad that Dr. Fitzwilliams had got in.

Mr. PERCY SMITH said he would like also to endorse the proposition, and to reiterate what had been said by Mr. Bellios. He was sorry he had not been elected, but no doubt it was to the gain of the community. They could quite rest assured, however, that he would try again (Hearty hear and applause).

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS was absent at the time the poll was announced.

THE CANDIDATES ADDRESSES.

GENTLEMEN:—The term of office for which you elected me as one of your representatives on the Sanitary Board in 1906 being about to expire, I beg to offer myself as candidate for a re-election.

In seeking your suffrages on the previous occasion, I did so from a conviction that, if I were

elected to the Board, I would, by a close investigation of the administration of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, be able to bring to light not only irregularities of a very serious nature but such a harsh and impolitic administration of the law as to render residence in this Colony for the Chinese, especially the middle classes, nearly unbearable, in addition to which, the wealthy Chinese, who had been in the habit of investing very large amounts of money in landed property, ceased doing so, thereby causing a great depreciation in that class of securities, which naturally reflected on the Government by reducing the amount payable by way of rates, and so destroying that confidence they hitherto had in the Government administration of property laws. The enormous reductions shown in the Government returns of amount realised by land sales alone go a great way to prove it.

Mr. Matthew Nathan was quick in discerning that something was wrong, and within four months of Mr. Humphreys and myself taking our seats on the Board, His Excellency the Governor appointed a Commission to investigate and report on the administration and reputed corrupt practices. The result is well known.

The Commission, so far as the administration was concerned, pointed out its weak points and recommended certain remedies and an alteration of the law.

In many points the administration has been vastly improved; but as to the alteration of the law, which was contrary to that recommended by the Commission, I regret to say that the transfer of a great part of the administration from the Sanitary Board to the Building Authority, which now does not undergo the scrutiny of a Public Board, has, to my mind, not been attended with success.

The instance alone of about one hundred prosecutions undertaken against persons for not carrying out notices of the Building Authority, and which it was evident could be complied within the specified time on account of all the workmen available being engaged in making good typhoon damage, is a sufficient indication that the bureaucratic administration of the Building Authority is worse than that of a Public Board.

My endeavour in the past has been to approach every question submitted to the Board with an entirely open mind, giving judgment thereon after every consideration of it from its hygienic, financial and general political aspect.

I have without fear or favour freely criticised the Government, its policy and the conduct of its officers, and I purpose continuing the same policy. If you are satisfied with it and return me again as your representative, I should continue to do my best in the future as I have done in the past.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. SHELTON HOOPER.

GENTLEMEN:—In submitting my name as a candidate for one of the two vacant seats on the Sanitary Board, I beg to lay before you the following points for your especial consideration.

Firstly, that from my professional training I am specially qualified in hygiene and sanitation and have had to obtain proficiency in the preventive as well as the curative side of medicine, and whereas, in many cases, too much attention is paid to the latter to the neglect of the former, I am able to show that I have been at some pains to obtain special training in this branch.

Not content with having attained honours in the course delivered at Edinburgh University in 1903, I took later an advanced postgraduate course in Hygiene and Sanitation especially suited to conditions which prevail in warm and tropical climates. This course was delivered by Professor Simpson, so well-known in Hongkong, as one of the expert members of the late Inquiry Commission, sent out from England at the request of the public, to investigate into the needs and requirements of the Colony from a sanitarian point of view, and who was thus enabled to embody his Hongkong experiences in the course which I had the honour to attend.

Secondly, that, as a practitioner in Hongkong, I shall be more especially interested in the health of Members of the Community, and would be more closely brought in touch with cases of disease in the localities in which they are bred.

Thirdly, it is not only as a doctor that I lay claim to your votes, but as a man who has, and can have no personal axe to grind, and who will in consequence have the best interests of the Colony at heart, adapting professional knowledge to local conditions, and not giving countenance to schemes of theory and experiment impractical in these days of financial depression.

Lastly, should you do me the honour to elect me to the post which I seek, I will endeavour to devote my energies faithfully to the performance of the duties which the position requires.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

GERARD H. L. FITZWILLIAMS,
M.D., CH.B., AND F.R.C.S. EDINBURGH,
31, Queen's Road.

Hongkong, 16th January, 1909.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honour to come before you as a candidate for a seat on the Sanitary Board of this Colony and to solicit your kind support.

As a member of the general public and a ratepayer, I am fully aware of the importance to my fellow colonists of whatever nationality and status, of the opportunity afforded to the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board. Questions of Public Health affect us all, and legislation on Public Health matters have often a more far-reaching effect than can be anticipated by those more directly concerned in the framing of our laws. I am now in medical practice in Hongkong and anticipate making this my home for many years to come. I am therefore personally interested in the prosperity of our Colony. I consider that much can be done by a member of the Sanitary Board by the study of the needs of the Various Sections of Community and by the fullest discussion at Board meetings to help the Government to frame wise measures, which, while they may impose restrictions which must be borne by all in the interests of all, should be reasonable and well considered.

I am in favour of economy with efficiency and am alive to the pressing necessity of such. In the Colony's history in the past, it is well known that large sums of public money have been unnecessarily expended through the hurried acceptance of ideas, which could on more careful consideration have well borne much modification.

As a member of the medical profession, I venture to remind you that I shall be able to bring to bear on Public Health questions some critical knowledge of such matters.

Should I receive the honour of election at your hands I should not forget the duty I owe to the electors. I shall have their interests at heart and shall, by ever keeping before me the idea that the prosperity and well being of the Colony at the present and future is the goal to which we should all work, endeavour always to merit the trust reposed in me.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Servant,

R. A. BELILIOS, M.D., F.R.C.S. (ED.)
Hongkong, 18th January, 1909. [208]

GENTLEMEN:—Having been invited by an influential deputation to offer myself as a candidate, and having a personal desire to place my services at the disposal of the Colony in any matter conducive to its welfare, I beg to solicit your support at the coming Election.

Although I have only been resident in the Colony for five years, my business in the management of a large quantity of Chinese property has given me a very considerable insight into the working of the Sanitary Regulations of the Colony.

While I shall support the Government in any fresh regulations they may consider necessary to the Sanitation of the Colony I shall always reserve to myself absolute freedom to criticise and, as far as possible, bring before the consideration of the Board the wishes of the Electors.

I have no medical or other special knowledge of Sanitation, and I think you will agree with me that such knowledge is quite unnecessary in the two members to be elected on Wednesday as the medical profession is already fully and most excellently represented on the Board, but I shall hope to approach the consideration of all subjects before the Board with business-like common-sense, with due regard to vested

interests and using every effort to see that the Administration of the Sanitary Regulations be carried out with efficiency and with the least possible inconvenience to the inhabitants of the Colony.

Your Obedient Servant,
HORACE PERCY SMITH,
5, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1909. [209]

THE DISTRESS IN ITALY.

GENEROUS DONATION BY THE VICEROY
OF CANTON.

Our Canton correspondent informed us recently that H.E. the Viceroy of Canton was taking a sympathetic interest in the distressing news from Italy. He had been in consultation with the leading gentry of Canton on the subject and had asked, through the Commissioner of Customs, for information from the Consul-General for Italy, Com. Volpicelli.

Yesterday morning His Excellency sent an official to the Italian Consulate General with a cheque of ten thousand dollar (Hongkong notes, for the sufferers from the earthquake in southern Italy. Mr. Volpicelli at once wired his thanks and will send a despatch to-day. He will also call on the Viceroy as soon as the period of mourning is over.

The Italian Consul General took the cheque at once to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and had the money transferred telegraphically to the Banca d'Italia at Rome, informing his Government at the same time. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank very kindly transferred the money without any charges.

This generous gift of the Viceroy is important as a new step in the friendly relations between China and foreign countries. If our memory does not fail us, this is the first instance of China taking part officially in a work of international assistance in the relief of distress occasioned by a great calamity that has taken place at such a distance, and where there are no Chinese emigrants. China sent assistance at the time of the San Francisco earthquake, but in that city there are very many Chinese residents who have friends and relations in China, especially in Southern China. The disaster at Messina and Reggio not only happened at a great distance, but the relations between China and Italy have been hitherto very rare, as Italy has no colonies for the Chinese to emigrate to, and she generally buys silk through foreign firms. Until China began to build railways very few Italians came to China, and they are still not very numerous.

The gift of the Canton Viceroy must therefore be considered as a purely philanthropic act, and as a further indication that China intends to enter the comity of nations in the highest meaning of that expression. It has been very gratifying for the Italian Consul General, Mr. Volpicelli, who has spent the greater and the best part of his life in China (he has been a resident for over 27 years) to be the recipient of this first gift inspired by international philanthropy.

FURTHER DONATION FROM CANTON.

On the evening of the 19th instant, the Italian Consul General received from the Canton Viceroy a further sum of \$12,907.90 amount of a public subscription amongst the merchants, and gentry of Canton. This sum, like the former one, was transmitted yesterday morning telegraphically to the Banca d'Italia at Rome, through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, free of charges. Acknowledgment and thanks were wired to the Viceroy the same night by the Italian Consul General.

We are informed that H. E. Chang, the Viceroy of the neighbouring provinces, has taken a great interest in the relief work for the sufferers by the unparalleled disaster in Southern Italy. He sent at once a telegram of sympathy to the Italian Consul General for Southern China, who resides in Hongkong, and made enquiries about the progress of relief work. Shortly afterwards he renewed enquiries through the Commissioner of Customs of Kowloon, Mr.

Harris, and when this gentleman later on visited Canton the Viceroy repeated his enquiry verbally. This interest has materialised in the offering of two large sums. The former one of \$10,000 was the contribution of the Government of the Liang Kuang provinces; the last is the result of the subscription raised amongst the public. The Chinese press in Canton for some days was busy in publishing the steps taken by the Viceroy for furthering the public subscription: its success is therefore in great measure due to the initiative and activity of the Viceroy. These considerations do not in the least take away from the generous promptitude with which the gentry and merchants took up the subscription as soon as the matter was brought to their attention. All China residents will also be alive to the fact, forced upon them at every moment in these days, that the subscription was raised in the most unfavourable time, close upon China New Year, when every Chinaman, whatever his wealth and position, receives numberless calls on his purse which tax it to the uttermost.

Yesterday morning the Italian Consul General received from Mr. Tittoni, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the following telegram:—

"Italian Consulate Hongkong—In the name of the Royal Government I beg you to thank the Viceroy for his generous donation to the sufferers from the earthquake. —TITTONI."

The thanks conveyed in this telegram were re-transmitted to the Canton Viceroy yesterday

The Government of Peking, at the solicitation of H.E. Huang Ho, ex-Minister to Rome, has forwarded to Italy a donation of Tls. 50,000.

ALLEGED OPIUM SMUGGLING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

OFFICERS OF THE "RUBI" ARRESTED.

Alexander McCormick, second engineer of the steamship *Rubi* was found in possession of 60 ounces of opium when the ship arrived in Manila on the 12th inst. and was arrested by the chief of the secret service department of the bureau of customs. In connection with the arrest of McCormick, W. G. Lawson, the ship's first officer is said to have placed himself between the officer making the arrest and his fellow officer and thus made it possible for him to attempt to escape. He has been charged with interfering with an officer in the discharge of his duties.

He was also arrested and together with McCormick was removed to the Meiao police station where they were held under order of the court to appear for arraignment the following day. Charges were filed against them in the afternoon by the prosecuting attorney and bail of P1,000 for McCormick and P5,000 for Lawson recommended.

The defence of the second engineer is stated to be that he found the opium in one of the bunkers while engaged in searching for contraband. He is said to have been making his way on deck to report the find when he was arrested by the Customs detective officer. The Captain was ashore at the time, and the Chief Officer objected to McCormick being taken off the ship before the Captain returned.

HEAVY SENTENCE ON A CHINAMAN.

At Cebu a Chinese who was arrested on November 1st last charged with having on board the steamer *Kaifong* in the port of Cebu 70 cans of opium in his possession and under his control, has just been sentenced to five years' imprisonment to pay a fine of ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00,) and in case of insolvency to suffer subsidiary imprisonment at the rate of one day for each twelve and one-half pesetas which he fails to pay, such subsidiary imprisonment not to exceed one year, and to pay the costs of the cause.

Rumours have been current in Yokohama for several days, says the *Japan Gazette*, that the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China at this port has been victimized to the extent of about Y.200,000 by two Chinese, who on December 29th jointly drew this sum from the Bank by means of forged bills.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, January 18th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS
PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE ALLANA ESTATE.

In the matter of S. E. Allana, Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared in support of a motion brought by the Official Receiver to set aside the sale of the bankrupt's property to S. A. Marican. The purchaser was represented by Mr. John Hastings (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings).

Mr. Harston read the motion, which asked that the sale and assignment by the debtor on November 2nd, 1908, of the business carried on by him with the stock-in-trade, book debts, other debts and goodwill thereof, to S. A. Marican in consideration of \$12,600, agreed to be paid in instalments of \$400 a month, should be set aside on the ground that the same was either (1) a conveyance or assignment of the property of the debtor to a trustee for the benefit of his creditors generally within the meaning of subsection A of section 3 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1891, or (2) A fraudulent conveyance, gift, delivery or transfer of the property of the debtor within the meaning of subsection B of section 3 of the said Bankruptcy Ordinance and therefore void as an act of bankruptcy. And for a declaration that the said business formed part of the estate of the debtor.

Mr. Hastings—I have a preliminary objection to take to the application: that is, the jurisdiction of the court.

Mr. Harston—Mr. Hastings gave me notice of this, and it was arranged between us that this objection should be dealt with, and in the event of the Court holding that it has jurisdiction, that the substantive motion should come on at a later date.

Mr. Hastings submitted that the Court sitting in bankruptcy had no jurisdiction to entertain the motion. His Lordship would see that the motion asked the Court to set aside the assignment on the ground of fraud. That was pre-eminently a case for the equitable jurisdiction of the court, and it was only by exercising its equitable jurisdiction that the court could set aside the deed. The sections referred to in the motion dealt solely with acts of bankruptcy, that was to say, acts on which a bankruptcy petition could be granted. An assignment of this sort might possibly be an act of bankruptcy so far as the debtor was concerned, but his Lordship would understand that he (Mr. Hastings) appeared for Mr. Marican, the purchaser under the assignment. The debtor was not represented, and was not affected in any way. The only parties before the Court were the Official Receiver and the purchaser under the assignment. Jurisdiction to set aside a deed was equitable jurisdiction, and to make this clear Mr. Hastings referred his Lordship to section 34 (3) of the Judicature Act of 1873. The question, continued Mr. Hastings, was whether the Court sitting in bankruptcy could exercise equitable jurisdiction. He submitted that it could not. The proper course for the Official Receiver to take to set aside this deed was to bring an action in the original jurisdiction of the court. He could not proceed in bankruptcy against a person not amenable to the bankruptcy law. Mr. Marican was neither creditor nor debtor; he was merely purchaser. He submitted that the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court was simply to deal with bankruptcy petitions, and parties to those petitions.

His Lordship—Supposing, as you say, the Official Receiver must bring an action in original jurisdiction, that would mean suspending the bankruptcy proceedings?

Mr. Hastings—Not necessarily.

His Lordship—The bankruptcy proceedings are based on this assignment, therefore, to a certain extent, the Court has cognizance of this deed.

Mr. Hastings—Whether this deed is set aside or not, there would be assets for the Court to proceed on.

His Lordship—To what extent?

Mr. Hastings—If this deed is not set aside, the Official Receiver will receive \$400 a month.

His Lordship—Those are assets depending on the deed.

Mr. Hastings—Maybe the bankruptcy proceedings would have to stop until this question is decided, but the Bankruptcy Court has no jurisdiction to deal with it against a person who is a stranger to the bankruptcy proceedings.

His Lordship—That is a point which I find some difficulty in appreciating. As the bankruptcy proceedings are based on this deed he cannot be held to be a complete stranger.

Mr. Hastings—I think he is a stranger because he has never appeared before the Bankruptcy Court, and he is not a party to the proceedings. In order to ascertain this matter I would ask you Lordship to look at the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy court. This jurisdiction has been exercised at home, but under a special section of the Home Act which is not in our Ordinance. Even with the section in the Home Act it has been held that it is a question of discretion in the Bankruptcy Court. The jurisdiction of this court sitting in bankruptcy is extremely limited, and the Legislature have specially cut out jurisdiction in such a case as this.

His Lordship—There is no general reference to the English Act.

Mr. Hastings—None at all that I can find. Mr. Hastings then referred his Lordship to a number of cases in which it was held that the Court at home had no power to deal with matters such as this.

His Lordship—The debtor might pass off his goods by fraudulent sale and oust the jurisdiction.

Mr. Hastings—Your Lordship has perfect power to decide between the parties to a bankruptcy, as to whether this is an act of bankruptcy, but that question does not affect my client.

His Lordship—Supposing a creditor files a petition in bankruptcy against a trader, and the trader produces a document saying his property has been sold, the Bankruptcy court is therefore suspended, pending the trial of that question.

Mr. Hastings—Only with regard to that particular property.

His Lordship—Then a wily debtor would transfer his whole property over to another?

Mr. Hastings—It might be a wise thing that we had this section, but why has our Legislature cut it out?

His Lordship—I am pointing out that we ought to have it in.

Mr. Hastings—I think the Bankruptcy Court most decidedly ought to have this jurisdiction.

His Lordship—What about fraudulent preference; has not the Court power to decide that question?

Mr. Hastings—Yes, as between official trustee and creditors.

His Lordship—Your client was not a creditor?

Mr. Hastings—No.

His Lordship—He simply comes in as an independent purchaser?

Mr. Hastings—Yes. I don't think your Lordship can read section 102 into our Ordinance when it is not there.

His Lordship—I quite see the force of your argument, but the question is whether section 42 does not give jurisdiction.

Mr. Hastings—This matter does not refer to the Bankruptcy Court.

His Lordship—Supposing he had notice that the bankruptcy would invalidate the conveyance?

Mr. Hastings—It is a question of an available act of bankruptcy before the date of the assignment.

His Lordship—Supposing the Official Receiver comes into Court under section 43? He goes into the shop and takes possession of these things, whereupon Mr. Marican says they are his. The trustee then comes into court and says he wants the property, but someone else claims it. Has not the court jurisdiction to decide the claim?

Mr. Hastings—I think not, for this reason: immediately the assignment is produced by Mr. Marican the Court says this is not the property of the bankrupt until that assignment has been set aside. With regard to property admitted to be the property of a bankrupt, it is a different thing.

His Lordship (to Mr. Harston)—Do you object to this question of fraud being tried by a jury?

Mr. Harston—I don't know that I do, but I think I shall satisfy you conclusively that this Court has jurisdiction.

His Lordship—Is the equity jurisdiction of this Court the same as the chancery jurisdiction? Has it ever been defined?

Mr. Harston—Yes, under Ordinance 2 of 1901.

Proceeding, Mr. Harston said the point raised by Mr. Hastings was one of very great importance because it was one thing to move in bankruptcy and another to bring an action in the original jurisdiction of the Court. He could not go into the facts of the case, except so far as there were facts on the affidavits, two of which he wished to call his Lordship's attention to.

The first was that it was clear from an affidavit filed by the debtor that the sale was made on November 2nd; the other fact was that on the very next day the same solicitors who had put through that sale filed the debtor's petition. In dealing with the question of jurisdiction, Mr. Harston asked his Lordship to note the points to be found in Maxwell. The first was that there was a presumption against ousting the jurisdiction; the second was that jurisdiction might be conferred by implication; the third was that a ground of jurisdiction implied a ground of machinery to enforce it; the fourth point was that the conduct of the party objecting might be an estopper. It was necessary in considering the question of jurisdiction to consider the various ordinances passed in the colony conferring jurisdiction on the Court. After referring to various ordinances dating back to 1844, Mr. Harston said his submission was that under those ordinances, as now enforceable in the Colony, the Court clearly had equitable jurisdiction in bankruptcy. In the present case the only assets were the assets in this business, and he was merely dealing with the question of discretion.

His Lordship—Those assets have been substituted for \$400 a month.

Mr. Harston—Yes, and now is the Official Receiver, in the interest of the creditors, to institute an action which will run into \$3000 or \$4000 costs, when he can obtain the same object, and the court can deal with the matter just as effectively by a motion in bankruptcy? It is obvious from the terms of the Bankruptcy Act that this case is really within the machinery, because, as your Lordship will see, the allegations set out in the notice of motion are alternative allegations. In this case the Official Receiver is setting up a superior title against the bankrupt.

His Lordship—Is this an assignment for the benefit of the creditors generally?

Mr. Harston—It does not purport to be on the face of it.

Mr. Hastings—It is an assignment of absolute sale.

Mr. Harston—I submit that there is jurisdiction in this Court by virtue of the ordinances at present existing in the Colony.

After further argument his Lordship reserved his decision.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING. PUISNE JUDGE).

USING VIOLENCE WITH INTENT TO ROB.
Chan Shui was indicted on a charge of attempted robbery at Hunghom on January 7th. Prisoner admitted going to the house mentioned, but denied taking any goods.

The Attorney-General—He is charged with using violence with intent to rob. It is not alleged that he took anything away.

On the charge being explained to the prisoner he pleaded guilty, and his Lordship sentenced him to three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

ROBBERY AND LARCENY.

Lam Tim, Chan Shin and Po Tan were indicted on charges of robbery and larceny at Chinwan on November 29th. Prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jurors were called: P. F. Nicholson (foreman), J. Lysaught, E. H. Neave, J. M. McHutchon, E. G. Smith, F. O. Day and P. Davidson.

The Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. Denny, Jr., from the Crown Solicitor's Office, prosecuted, and the prisoners were undefended.

The Attorney-General informed his Lordship and the jurors that the prisoners were charged on two counts: the first alleging a robbery with others, and the second alleging ordinary larceny in a dwelling house. The object of discriminating between the two charges was that, if the jurors were not satisfied that the money was obtained by means of threat, it would be open for them to find the prisoners guilty on the second count of the indictment. The affair took place on November 29th at the village of Chinwan in the New Territory, about eight miles from the Shamsui-po Police Station. There appeared to have been, according to the evidence, an attack in force on the village by a large number of men, and from the Police evidence the jurors would learn that a large number of shops had been broken into. The prisoners were charged with breaking into the Hun Yik shop, and the evidence of one of the assistants would show that ten men entered that shop with revolvers and torches. The building was more or less looted, and it was alleged that \$92 was stolen. This assistant identified the first and second prisoners, but could not speak definitely regarding any of the others. Another man in the shop, however, identified the third prisoner as the man who pointed a revolver at him. These two witnesses reported the matter to the police, who arrived on the scene to find the whole village in disorder, and in a state of great excitement. The prisoners were arrested on December 10th, and a careful identification then took place, in which the three prisoners were picked out by the witnesses from a number of men. The whole question was one of identity; whether the jurors were satisfied that these three men were part of a band who committed this robbery.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against the three accused, and his Lordship sentenced each man to five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Tuesday, January 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS
PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Lam Chun, Chan Wai Sik, Chan Shang and Tong Wah were arraigned on a charge of robbery on December 31st. Prisoners pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—R. V. Rutter (foreman), B. M. Castro, A. R. F. Raven, J. T. d'Almada e Castro, A. Jahrand, H. A. Schluter and C. R. Crispin.

The Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. Denny, Jr., from the office of the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown, the prisoner being undefended.

The Attorney-General informed the Court and jurors that this was another charge of robbery with violence, a crime which appeared to be very rife in this colony. The robbery took place in an opium divan at 236, Queen's Road Central, on the 31st of last month. Six men were said to have taken part, but only four had been arrested in connection with it. The case for the prosecution, which was supported by a large number of witnesses, was that six men entered the opium divan at about ten o'clock on the evening in question, and remained there for a considerable time. After smoking opium for a while they were told to go, but declined, saying they had not finished their smoke. After a time the six men got up, and the foks, thinking they were going, went to take away the opium lamps. The proceedings then appeared to have begun. Two of the men pushed one of the foks aside, tied and gagged him, and then they bound the other. Two more of the robbers proceeded to the bedroom of the master of the shop, wrapped him up in a quilt, and told him to be quiet or they would take his life, or used words to that effect. The master remained wrapped up in his blanket while the looting was going on. Then two of the intruders proceeded to the accountant's room, and one of them approaching, offered him some money. While the accountant was ex-

amining it the man caught him by the throat, tied him up, gagged him, put some wire through his hair and tied him to a stool. The people on the first floor then heard the noise, and owing to their shouting the six men ran away, but before doing so one of the men grabbed some money from the till in the accountant's room. A Chinese constable heard the alarm, went to the house and found all the foks tied up. Then he proceeded to a place called Circular Pathway where he arrested a man, took him back to the shop, and he was identified as the first defendant. The other three were subsequently arrested by the police. The whole case turned, as most of these cases did, on the subject of identification. The first and second accused were identified by no less than five witnesses who spoke positively as to these two men. When charged by the police, all four prisoners made statements of an incriminating character, and it would be for the jury to say when they had heard the evidence what importance they attached to those statements. The second accused, in his evidence before the Magistrate, said the admission he had made to the police was in consequence of inducement held out by them to him. He was assaulted by the police and asked to come forward to give evidence against the other men, consequently the admission he made was owing to the assault and the duress under which he was.

After hearing the evidence the jury brought in a verdict of guilty against the first three defendants, and found the fourth not guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the first, second and third men to four years' imprisonment with hard labour, and discharged the fourth defendant.

CONSULAR CHANGES IN CHINA.

The following appointments were announced in the London Gazette a month ago:—

Sir Alexander Hosie to be his Majesty's Consul-General for the Provinces of Chihli and Shansi, to reside at Tientsin;

Mr. P. E. O'Brien-Butler to be his Majesty's Consul-General for the Province of Szechuen, to reside at Chengtu;

Mr. R. H. Mortimore to be his Majesty's Consul for the Prefecture of Tengchou Fu, in the Province of Shantung, to reside at Chefoo;

Mr. E. T. C. Werner to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Kinkiang, to reside at Kiukiang;

Mr. A. J. Sundius to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Amoy, to reside at Amoy;

Mr. W. J. Lennell to be his Majesty's Consul for the Prefecture of Chin Chou, and for that portion of the Prefecture of Feng T'ien south of the northern boundary of the district of Hai Ch'eng, to reside at Newchwang;

Mr. H. Goffe to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Wuhu;

Mr. E. C. C. Wilton, C.M.G., to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Changsha, to reside at Changsha;

Mr. F. E. Wilkinson to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Kiungchow and Pakhoi, to reside at Kiungchow;

Mr. B. G. Tours to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Tengyueh, to reside at Tengyueh; and

Mr. H. A. Ottewill, Mr. V. L. Savage, Mr. B. Giles, Mr. B. Twyman, Mr. S. F. Mayers, Mr. S. Barton, and Mr. J. L. Smith each to be one of his Majesty's Vice-Consuls in China.

A DERELICT JUNK WITH A STARVING CREW.

Captain Mathieson of the N. Y. K. *Kumano Maru* which arrived on Tuesday reported:

The *Kumano Maru* left Hongkong on the 15th inst. and on the following day, at sea, about 255 miles off Ningpo, a signal was seen afar off on the waters as if calling for assistance. Captain Mathieson steered his vessel towards the object and, on getting near, saw it was a fishing junk with Ningpo men on board who were in a state of starvation through their provisions having run out. A gig was immediately lowered from the *Kumano Maru* and the second officer went with it with a plentiful supply of provisions and fresh water for the starving men, enough to last them several days for the voyage home.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 29th December 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), J. S. Fenwick, Huang Ts'an-chew, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary, C. Berkeley Mitchell. The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

HEALTH REPORT.

The Health Officer's report for 1908 was read and passed for publication.

THE BUDGET.

The Budget for 1909 was read, approved and passed for publication.

CENSUS OF THE CHINESE POPULATION.

A letter was read from Mr. H. Gottwaldt of the Land Commission, enclosing the result of a census he took of the Chinese population during the time the Chinese property on the Island was being revalued.

The Secretary was directed to thank Mr. Gottwaldt for his work in the matter, and to forward to Mr. Gottwaldt's Chinese clerk the sum of \$15 for services rendered in connection with same.

POLICE REPORT.

The Superintendent of Police reported that the following cases had been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—*Summonses*—Debt, 2; Allowing pigs and cattle to stray, 16; Throwing rubbish &c. into the public drains, 6; Breach of Slaughter House Regulations (in buying the carcass of a pig to retail, unfit for human food) 1; Breach of Municipal Regulations (Disorderly house) 2. *Summary Arrests*:—Kidnapping, 1; Being a rogue and a vagabond &c. 4; Committing a nuisance, 3; Resisting the Police, 6; Creating a disturbance, 4; Attempting to sell the carcass of a pig, unfit for human food, 1; Breach of Sampan Regulations, 2; Cruelty to animals, 2; Burglary, 2; Drunk and creating a disturbance, 1; Theft 2.

ENGLISHMAN MURDERED IN THE INTERIOR.

News has reached Tientsin of the murder of Mr. Brooke, who twelve months ago left Hankow on an extended shooting trip in the extreme West of China.

His companion, Mr. Mears, a well-known traveller, who has made many adventurous journeys, cabled from Ningyuanfu, Western Szechuan, that Mr. Brooke and some of his followers had been massacred. Mr. Mears does not state if he himself escaped unhurt or not.

The two travellers during the past year had many exciting adventures and narrow escapes.

On several occasions they were attacked by the wild Western tribes. The murder took place in the Independent Lolos country, or immediate neighbourhood.

In the "Badminton" of October an account of the two men's travels is given.

OUR MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES CONTRIBUTE NOTHING.

Appendix 20 of the current year's Army Estimates tells an instructive tale. It shows that while the Crown Colonies of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements and Hongkong all pay substantial contributions to Army funds towards the upkeep of their garrisons, the self-governing colonies of South Africa contribute nothing. Regular soldiers are stationed at Colombo, Singapore, and Hongkong, because these ports are of first-class naval and commercial importance; but the garrison is for the most part maintained in South Africa for purely local purposes, and to save the white population from providing for its own security against internal troubles.—*United Service Gazette*.

Mr. H. T. S. Green, who has been the manager of the International Banking Corporation's Yokohama branch has been transferred to the Head Office on promotion. Mr. N. S. Marshall, of Kobe succeeds Mr. Green at Yokohama.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd January.—On account of the Chinese New Year there has been no sale and the prices remain unchanged. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.70	to	5.80
" Round, Good quality	\$5.40	to	5.45
" Long	5.87	to	5.65
" Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$5.60	to	5.65
" Garden, " No. 1	5.20	to	5.25
" White,	\$5.30	to	5.35
" Fine Cargo	5.50	to	5.55

SAIGON.—Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their latest circular dated Saigon 8th Jan., report:—Our last circular was issued on the 11th ultimo and the latest posted advices received since are as follows:—Hongkong 5th instant. Yokohama 25th ultimo; Manila 1st inst. Java 1st instant, Singapore 7th instant and London 15th ultimo:—

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled round	3.38
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	3.02
5 % Cargo steam milled round	2.98
10 % Cargo steam milled round	2.88
20 % Cargo steam milled round	2.88

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

The following is a statement of this year's Exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy:—

Destination.	Total pcs.
Hongkong	3,717,870
Shanghai	76,400
Ningpo	45,800
Manila	1,104,790
Iloilo	124,000
Cebu	496,700
Japan	1,765,100
Singapore	837,871
Batavia	243,885
Samarang	240,104
Pasceran	64,000
Sourabaya	1,431,127
Cheribon	75,000
Noumea	24,000
Reunion	340,200
Mauritius	46,800
Europe	3,289,972

Total

Same period of last year

Exports during the month of white rice cargo rice and paddy have been:—

	piculs
Hongkong	2,070
Batavia	116,985
Sourabaya	132,384
Singapore	54,089
Europe	1,672
Total	307,200

COAL.

HONGKONG, Jan. 21st.—The arrivals of coal since the 24th Dec. 1908 amounted to 37,000 tons of Japanese. The coal expected is 61,300 tons Japanese, 5,800 tons Australian, 10,100 tons Hongay, 4,800 tons Borneo and 15,000 Wales. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$23.50 to \$ — ex-godown, sellers.
Australian	\$12.50 ex-godown, sellers.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$8.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

SUGAR.

Kobe, 30th Dec. 1908.—Cane.—Raw.—Java.—The local market remains unchanged while the tendency in Java is weaker. Formosa. No stock, prices nominal. Osaka refined.—The market is stationary, no auction having taken place since the last report.

Yokohama, 31st December.—Prices of Japan refined have dropped about yen 1.00 per picul during the past fortnight. There is nothing doing in imported refined. A parcel of 1,500 half picul bags of brown sugar recently arrived from Manila.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, Jan. 20th.—Since the 7th inst. the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa. Patna. Benares. Persian
Stocks on the 7th Jan., 1909—	654 2,674 1,013 1,180
Jan. 8th Imports per Fookang	— 235 45 —
" 11th " " Kunsang	— 200 20 —
" 18th " " Japan	— 285 130 —
	654 3,374 1,205 1,180

Less Exports to Shanghai	— 210 240 —
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	76 371 233 18

Estimated Stocks this day .. 578 2,795 733 1,162

Bengal.—The Chinese having supplied their wants, the demand fell off and owing to the rise in exchange prices declined to \$1,100, for New Patna and \$1,025. for New Benares, but towards the close a demand has again sprung up and prices have improved to \$1,105. for Patna and \$1,050. for Benares.

Malwa.—Nothing doing.

Persian.—There has been some demand locally and for the Formosa market. We quote superior drug at \$910.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 21st January, states:—Nothing of interest has occurred in our yarn market during the past fortnight. Business is at a complete standstill and the trifling sales noted below are more or less forced, and were effected towards the close of last mail and are confined principally to favourite spinnings of Nos. 10s. and 20s. for the northern markets. Prices have receded \$1 to \$3 per bale, but are no real indication of the market as holders, to effect sales, have to accept the ideas of buyers. The new Year festivities are in full swing, and the market continues quiet, but the tone at the close is one of considerable weakness, and on the resumption of business after the holidays, the readjustment of values will entirely depend upon the fluctuations in exchange. Bombay is reported steady with little business doing for the Far East.

Sales of the interval aggregate 975 bales, arrivals amount to 9,461 bales, unsold stock estimated at 25,000 and sold but uncleared bales in second hands 20,000 bales. Local manufacture:—Nothing doing. Japanese yarn:—No business is reported. Raw Cotton:—Indian descriptions are steady for best qualities which are somewhat scarce but for medium and low classes there is little or no demand and prices are weak. The business of the interval comprises the sales of 750 bales New Superfine Bengals at \$24 and of 50 bales old at \$23. Nothing has been done in China kinds. Stocks:—Indian 219 bales, and China 275 bale. Quotations are Indian \$22 to 25 and China \$27 to 29. Exchange on India has further advanced in sympathy with silver and closes steady to-day at Rs. 131½ for T/T and Rs. 132½ for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 86. The under noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 18th instant, viz:—Indian:—Have been in moderate inquiry and sales of about 3,500 bales have been effected at no marked change in price, market closing with an easier feeling owing to the rise in exchange. Estimated stock about 20,000 bales. Japanese:—Total sales about 2,800 bales on the basis of Tls. 94½ to 105 for No. 16s. and Tls. 102½ to 111 for No. 20s. Rates not maintained. Local:—Continues in good enquiry, and sale of 3,400 bales No. 14s. forward delivery, have been effected at Tls. 88½ to 92 and of 1,000 bales No. 16s. cash, at Tls. 92½.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS.

Kobe, 30th December.—Cotton.—American.—Quotations have fluctuated appreciably during the past fortnight, and latterly have shown rather a strong upward tendency. "Forward" Middling is quoted at Y30.25, but no business of importance has been done. "Spot" likewise is quiet owing to small stocks. Indian.—Prices have fluctuated in sympathy with American rates, and the market closes steady. Some forward sales are reported. The movement in "Tpot" is quiet, stocks in the market of suitable quality being practically exhausted. Closing rates are: Broach Y25.00; Akola Y22.00; Bengal Y21.00. Chinese.—Business in both "Spot" and "Forward" has been very small. "Best" is quoted at Y23.50, and "Common" Y21.50. Cotton goods and fancies. Worsteds and woollens:—Market quiet as usual at the close of the year. Metals.—Quiet. Rice.—No business.

EXPORTS.

Copper.—Market quiet, no transactions. Fish Oil.—Practically no stocks. Rice.—Weak. Cotton yarn.—The market is steady owing to fair local demand and some business for export. Vegetable wax.—Prices have declined; a small business has been done. Matting.—Supplies of market lots have come in more freely during the past fortnight at unchanged prices. Jacquards (180 C. W. Carpet Pattern) are quoted at Y6.10/6.20 per roll, at which figure some business has been transacted. Straw Braid.—There was not so much enquiry during the fortnight under review, and prices ruled weaker in consequence. Chip Braid.—Practically no change to report, the market closing firm with upward tendency.

YOKOHAMA, Dec., 31st 1908. Cotton Yarns.—There is nothing doing. Cotton Piece Goods.—Prices appear to have recovered slightly since last Report, but there is nothing new in the shape of business. Cotton and Union Italians are neglected and stocks are heavy. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—There has been some enquiry lately, but the higher tone of the home market has prevented forward transactions. A certain amount of business has been done in standard qualities but practically nothing in Fancies. Stocks generally in Tokyo are still heavy, and goods are selling there at prices much below to-day's values, especially for Fancies. Textiles Generally.—The impending holidays are making their influence felt and there is every indication that the markets will remain in a stagnant condition until well after the New Year. Notwithstanding the gradual movement of old stocks there is little disposition displayed by either dealers or importers to conclude new contracts. In the Woollen Piece Goods and Umbrella Cloth trades especially the effect of the late depression is still keenly felt. Raw Cotton.—No fresh business of importance has been reported during the last fortnight. Rice.—There is no change in the position. Metals.—The upward tendency in the home markets has caused a temporary cessation of the placing of forward orders, and until dealers have convinced themselves that the advance is likely to be maintained no new business can be looked for. Window Glass.—Deliveries are excellent, and the position generally encouraging. Forward contracts have fallen off owing to the close of the buying season and a slight advance in home prices. Kerosine Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of December show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil; deliveries 11,000 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: arrivals nil; deliveries 6,000 units. Flour.—The market remains practically unchanged, prices being about 60 sen per barrel below the parity of American values. Wheat.—There is very little enquiry. The American market has advanced and promises to continue firm.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 21st January, 1909.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	
Grey Shirtings—8lbs.	piece \$1.85 \$ —
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.	2.80 to 3.05
10 lbs.	4.15 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.65 to 3.65
58/60 " "	3.65 to 5.95
64/66 " "	6.10 to 7.15
Fine	8.05 to 9.15
Book-folds ..	3.15 to 6.15
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 2.00
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	1.95 to 2.20
7 lbs. " " "	2.25 to 3.25
8 lbs. " " " "	2.70 to 3.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) " "	3.20 to 4.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 18½ " "	4.40 to 5.40
to 14 lbs. " "	
FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece	\$1.87½ to \$4.20
Brocades—Dyed	yard 0.11 to 0.15
Chinese—Assorted	0.09 to 0.15
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	0.25 to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in.,	0.21 to 0.29
Handkerchiefs—imitation	0.50 to 2.00
Silk per dozen	
WOOLLENS—	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	yard \$0.70 to \$2.00
German,	0.60 to 0.70
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	1.25 to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	5.25 to 9.50
Assorted	3.40 to 9.85
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 31.00

lastings—30 yds. 81 inches.)	18.00 to 19.00
Assorted.....	"
Orleans—Plain.....	10.00 to 12.00
Blankets—8 to 12..... lbs.	0.65 to 1.50
RAW COTTON—	
Bombay..... picul	\$23.00 to \$25.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon	"
and Dacca.....	23.00 to 25.00
Shanghai and Japanese....	24.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo....	24.00 to 27.00
Metals—	
Iron—Nail Rod..... picul	\$ 4.10
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)...	4.05
Swedish Bar.....	4.15
Small Round Rod.....	4.55
Hoop, 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.....	5.60
Wire, 18/25 oz.....	9.00
Old Wire Rope.....	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop....	"
Australian.....	10.50
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz....	40.50
Vivian's, 16/32 oz....	40.50
Elliot's, 16/28 oz....	40.50
Tin.....	85.00
Tin-Plates..... box	7.70
Steel..... cwt. case	—
MISCELLANEOUS—	
Quicksilver..... picul	170.00 to 173.00
Window Glass..... box	5.80
Kerosene Oil..... case	—
Saltpetre, No. 1..... picul	\$11.90 to 12.40
Do. No. 2.....	11.30 to 11.70
Do. No. 3.....	10.20 to 10.80

EXPORTS:—**SILK.**

YOKOHAMA, 31st December.—Ince the 14th inst., the principal transactions in raw silk have been intended for shipment to Europe, whilst purchases for America have been comparatively few. A fall in prices for Filature, "Kimpai," and Reels has to be recorded, lower grade Kakedas, on the other hand being slightly higher than last reported.

The waste silk market has been very steady, with daily transactions large enough to prevent any increase in stock.

HABULAI—Prices for American qualities of Kanazawa have declined about two per cent. since last report, whilst those for Europe have depreciated about four per cent. The demand for America has as usual centered round 5 momme in 27 inch. There has been a better enquiry for Europe for 23 inch goods. The enquiry for better quality in Echinnon has been more marked, prices for which show but little alteration. For ordinary quality, particularly in 6 momme, prices have declined about five per cent. Owing to the temporary withdrawal from the market of some of the largest Japanese buyers and a falling off in the demand from all quarters, price for Kawamata have declined considerably.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 22nd January.—There is no market \$83.50—\$84.50.

EXCHANGE.**HONGKONG, January 21st**

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand.....	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight....	1/9 3/4
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight....	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight..	1/9 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	221
Credits 4 months' sight.....	225 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand.....	180 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	42 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight.....	44
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	131 1/2
Bank, on demand.....	132 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	131 1/2
Bank, on demand.....	132 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight.....	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight.....	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand.....	86
ON MANILA.—	
On demand.....	86 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand.....	75 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand.....	106 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand.....	11 1/2 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand.....	11 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand.....	86 1/2
SVERIGENS, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$11.20
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael.....	\$58.90
BAR SILVER per oz.....	23 1/2

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 21st January 1909.—Although a fair business has been transacted during the week it has been confined to a few stocks, anything like a general business being conspicuous by its absence. Considering however that we are now practically into the China New Year holidays and that the Chinese have been almost entirely out of the market during the week, the volume of business transacted and the steadiness of rates may be considered satisfactory. Exchange on London T.T. 1 1/2 1/16, Shanghai 74 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai continued unobtainable until the rate of 880 was reached, when a few shares were put on the market and quickly taken up, later shares changed hands at 885 886 and 887 1/2, the market closing with sellers at the last rate. Sales have also been made for February settlement at 890 and for delivery in the middle of February at 887 1/2. The London rate has gone up to 286, and the latest quotation from Shanghai gives \$910, a rate about the equivalent of our closing one.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have changed hands at 825, and close firmer with buyers at that rate. In Cantons a few forced small sales have taken place under the quoted rate, and the market closes weak at quotation. The Northern stocks show no change and call for no comment.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's have again found buyers at 330 and close steady at that. Chinas continues neglected at 106.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao's have continued in demand and further sales have been effected at 29 1/2, the market closing with buyers and a scarcity of shares. Indos remain dull with sellers at \$54 for the combined shares, but it is probable that at a little lower rate, shares could be placed. Douglasses are still enquired for in a small way at 33. China Manilas remain on offer at 13. Star Ferrys show no change and are without any business to report.

REFINERIES.—China sugars continue neglected with sellers at 112 1/2 Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—With the exception of Chinese Engineerings, which after falling to 16, have again advanced to 16 1/2, with buyers, we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa's have been dealt in to a small extent at 92, but sellers rule the market at the close. Kowloons have ruled weaker and sales have been made at 45 1/2 and 45, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Shanghai Docks remain unchanged at 75. Hongkew Wharfs have improved in the North to 144 with buyers.

LANDS HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been the medium of a fair business at 92 and 92 1/2 closing with buyers at the former rate. Hotels have changed hands at the improved rate of 90. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved in the North to 80, and Internationals have fallen a point to 68. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—A small sale of Electrics has been made at 19. China Borneos have changed hands at 11 1/2. Cements at 9.90, China Lights at 5 and Watsons at 9 1/2. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

MEMORANDA.—The following Public General Meetings are advertised. The Hongkong Land Investment Co. Ltd. on Tuesday the 28th inst. at noon Transfer Books closing on the 19th inst. The West P. int. Building Co. Ltd., on the 28th inst. at 11.30 a.m. Transfer Books closed on the 19th inst. The Hongkong Land Reclamation Co. Ltd., on the 28th inst. Transfer Books closed on the 19th inst. The China Commercial Co. Ltd., on 27th inst. at 3 p.m. Campbell, Moore Ltd., on the 29th inst. at noon. Transfer Books close on 22nd inst. The Dairy Farm Co. having issued the new shares they are now quoted at 14 ex new issue, being the equivalent of 22 1/2 cum new issue.

Quotations are as follows:—

Stocks	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$887 1/2, sellers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Marine Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Traders.....	\$25	\$37 1/2, buyers
North China.....	25	Tls. 105
Union.....	\$100	\$1825, sales & buy.
Yangtze.....	\$80	\$177 1/2
Fire Insurances—		
China Fire.....	20	\$106
Hongkong Fire.....	50	\$330, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & W. Dock.....	all	\$92, sales & sel.
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$6 1/2	\$9 1/2, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$13, sellers
Douglas Steamship...	all	\$33, buyers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$29 1/2, sales & buy.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$37, sellers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$17, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$5	\$23 1/2, buyers
Taku Tug & L. Co.	2 1/2	\$15, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	40/-
Do. Preference	Tls. 50	Tls. 45
Refineries—		
China Sugar.....	all	Tls. 47 1/2
Luzon Sugar.....	all	Tls. 51 1/2
Perak Sugar Cult...	Tls. 50	\$112 1/2
Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$18
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 95
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$45, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 144
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$92, buyers
Wei-hai-wei Land & Building...	Tls. 25	Tls. 120
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$33, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	Tls. 9 1/2
Tramways—		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$9 1/2, sellers
	\$1	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	all	\$14
Raubs.....	18/10	\$2
Hotels Etc—		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$590, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$8 1/2, sellers
Dispensaries—		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$90, sales
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$16 1/2
Lighting—		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$9 1/2, sales & sellers
Shanghai Gas Co....	Tls. 50	\$2, buyers
Hongkong Electric..	\$10	\$200, buyers
Miscellaneous—		
G. Island Cement	10	Tls. 121
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$19, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A	12/6	\$9.90, sales
United Asbestos...	\$4	Nominal
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$8 1/2, buyers
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$5	\$12 1/2
Hongkong Ice Co....	all	\$230
Robinson Piano Co...	\$50	\$10
S'hai Waterworks Co.	220	\$14, sellers
H'kong M. Rope Co.	all	\$220, sellers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$59, sellers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 487 1/2
International.....	Tls. 75	\$24, buyers
Laou Kung Mow...	Tls. 100	\$10, sellers
Soychee.....	Tls. 500	Tls. 80
China Provident.....	\$10	Tls. 68, sellers
China-Borneo Co....	\$12	Tls. 73 1/2, buyers
Campbell, M. & Co...	all	Tls. 285, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	7	\$9 1/2, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$4, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$24, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$5 1/2
Cigar Companies—		
Philippine Co., Ltd...	\$10	\$5 1/2
Alhambra, Ltd.....	\$50	\$140

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January:—

ARRIVALS.

14, Karonga, British str., from New York.
 15, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Fausang, British str., from Hongay.
 15, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
 15, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 15, Siam, Danish str., from Shanghai.
 15, Silesia, Australian str., from Singapore.
 15, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 15, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Moji.
 15, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 16, A. Apcar, British str., from Moji.
 16, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 16, Korat, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Malta, British str., from London.
 16, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
 16, Slavonia, German str., from Singapore.
 16, Stettin, Br. str., from Singapore.
 16, Suisang, British str., from Singapore.
 16, Tsintan, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 17, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 17, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
 17, Ichang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
 17, Kohsichang, German str., from Swatow.
 17, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 17, Solstad, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
 17, Tonkin, French str., from Shanghai.
 18, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 18, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 18, Clara Jebens, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 18, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
 18, Kagashima M., Jap. str., from Singapore.
 18, Korea, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 18, M. Castle, Br. str., from Shanghai.
 18, Montgomeryshire, Br. str., from London.
 18, Pakhoi, British str., from Swatow.
 18, Polynesien, French str., from Saigon.
 18, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 18, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
 18, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 18, Tjikini, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 18, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 19, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Fooshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 19, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 19, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Knivsberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 19, Kuman Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 19, Persia, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 19, Telemachus, British str., from Yokohama.
 19, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
 19, Yeddo, Swedish str., from Gothenburg.
 20, Cheongshing, Br. str., from Chinwangtao.
 20, Glenstrae, British str., from London.
 20, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Haldis, Nor. str., from Swatow.
 20, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.

January:—

DEPARTURES.

15, Andalusia, German str., for Singapore.
 15, Ariaki Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 15, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 15, Inveric, British str., for Seattle.
 15, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
 15, Putsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 16, Amara, British str., for Kobe.
 16, Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
 16, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
 16, Empress of Japan, Br. str., for Vancouver.
 16, Hakuto Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 16, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Istria, German str., for Colombo.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 16, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Siam, Dutch str., for Suez.
 16, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 17, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 17, Karonga, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Lienshing, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Nanchang, British str., for Cebu.
 17, Sark, Norwegian str., for Dalny.
 17, Shantung, British str., for Pasuran.
 17, Silesia, Australian str., for Shanghai.
 17, Tamsui, British str., for Chefoo.
 17, Tungshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.

18, Kweilin, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Polynesien, French str., for Shanghai.
 19, Gerd, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 19, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
 19, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 19, Kagashima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 19, Kumsang, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Slavonia, German str., for Yokohama.
 19, Tango Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Tenyo Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
 19, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
 19, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Sourabaya.
 19, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 19, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
 20, Arabia, German str., for Portland.
 20, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 20, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
 20, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 20, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Montgomeryshire, Br. str., for Shanghai.
 20, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
 20, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 20, Telemachus, British str., for Liverpool.
 20, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Pakhoi*, from Swatow, Mrs Williams.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Mrs. and Miss Motta.
 Per *Montgomeryshire*, from London, Mr Munroe.
 Per *Cheongshing*, from Chingwantao, Mr P. H. Skinn.
 Per *Yeddo*, from Gothenburg, &c., Miss Engeliom and Mr Rjellberg.
 Per *Machew*, from Hoihow, Dr. and Mrs Kelly, children and servants.
 Per *Anhui*, from Shanghai, Capt. Sprinks, Messrs Mann and Snodgrass.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Messrs. Marius Baillet, E. Hallowe, J. A. Richardson and A. MacLennan.
 Per *Kumano Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mrs T. Ito, Messrs T. Iyemaga, K. Kurashige and H. Shingushi.
 Per *Japan*, from Singapore, Captain G. M. Oldham, Messrs. A. J. Barry, Edward Dove, W. Stuart and Mitchell.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Dr. Muller, Messrs F. C. Fockun, Metz Van de Stadt, B. F. Howard, F. Bayle and G. S. Cruickshanks.
 Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs W. S. Macleod, Mr and Mrs R. A. Wilson, Surg. & Mrs Chas. B. Kindelbriger, Messrs Juan Breig, W. J. Matheus, E. Carpenter, R. T. Muddle and A. E. Druches.
 Per *Bingo Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mrs J. Shaw, Miss B. Milligan, Miss C. Fritsch, Miss N. E. Shaw, Miss M. M. Shaw, Messrs M. W. Mumma, W. Wynne, H. Pollock, W. G. Baker, Benedicts and T. H. Kelley.
 Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs F. E. Welch, Mr and Mrs W. C. Athouse, Mr and Mrs D. Ruston, Dr. H. W. Jones, Messrs A. E. Drucker, J. B. Thompson, E. A. Smith, O. D. F. Redford, A. G. Crawford and W. P. Dempster.
 Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr & Mrs Inchausti, Mrs Maylin, Mr Robton; from Kobe, Mr A. G. Husain; from Shanghai, Mrs Dey, Messrs D. Urmenata, Graf Roedern, C. Schmidt, S. G. Hornell, E. Pettersen and Harry Schanhaut.
 Per *Polynesien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs Soler, E. A. Schovkel and Way; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Bagshave, and Mrs Bishop; from Saigon, Mr and Mrs de Lacheconere and 2 infants, Messrs Oliver, Leon Lesage, Manes, Manabe and Murray.
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DEPARTED.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Japan, Mr and Mrs H. S. Walter, Messrs Iwasaki, Takenouchi, Matsui and Orada.
 Per *Tango Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mrs C. E. Couling, Bishop C. H. Brent, Rev. A. Margnez, Messrs E. Wagner, Y. B. Angles, C. Murakami, K. Murakami and Takaishi.
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Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE, for the Concerned, at 104, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.
 London Office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.